MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Earlier, almost 75% of the exports of deoiled meal were to East Europe. However, with the changes in East Europe as well as emerging oportunities in East Asian countries, the pattern of trade has changed. Exports from China, which is a major exporter, has been dwindling and consequendy, India's share in the deoiled meal market in East Asia is increasing.

Impact of Devalued currency of some countries on Tobacco Growers

4222. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the currency of some of the FCV tobacco producing countries is getting devalued and some of these countries are offloading their stocks at throw away prices, if so, what is its impact on our tobacco growers and what steps are taken to overcome this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dunkel Text under GATT

4223. SHRI BHUPENDERSINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarre Question 1403 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 1993, and state:

(a) what are the criteria in adopting data relating to the Annexure 2 of the tables as "Agreement on Modalities for Establishment of specific Binding Commitments to part as the text of agriculture as Dunkel Draft"; and

(b) whether its likely impact on the economy of country especially on agricultural sector after being considered by GATT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The criteria for selecting data in preparation of List of Commitments have been in accorance with the draft text on agriculture. Data for the reference period 1986—88 have been taken from the published sources of Government of India (such as Economic Survey, Annual Reports of Ministry of Agriculture, Trade Statistics from Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics and other relevant published sources). Parameters for which published, sources or information were not available, estimates have been made in consultation with appropriate Government Departments.

Calculations made in accordance with the draft agreement on agriculture show that India is not required to undertake any reduction commitments. Hence on impact on the agricultural sector is envisaged.

Import of Foodgrains

4224. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the estimates of foodgrains likely to be imported during the current year;

(b) what will be the amount spent on such imports;

(c) what are the reasons for this import; and

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce these imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Under the current Export and Import Policy, all foodgrains excluding pulses (other than toxic pulses) are covered by the Negative list of Imports. At present, no proposal to import foodgrains is under consideration.

Import of pulses (other than toxic pulses) is allowed freely. Import of foodgrains will depend upon their production and availability in the country.

Rationalisation in Central Purchase Organisation

4225. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: